



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 30, 2005

CONTACT:

MICHELLE MOWERY JOHNSON
(615) 313-4707 (OFFICE)
(615) 272-0845 (PAGER)

TENNESSEE REHABILITATION CENTER GRADUATES OVERCOME BARRIERS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS

NEARLY 100 TENNESSEANS GRADUATE TO A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE

SMYRNA, Tenn.— Dozens of young men and women with significant disabilities donned cap and gown on Friday, August 26 and proudly walked across the stage at the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center (TRC) in Smyrna. Each student is filled with the same determination and drive to enter or re-enter the workforce and better their lives. Their studies and hard work in programs like Building Maintenance, Business Education Training, Food Service, Custodial Training and Warehouse Training have enabled them to do just that. With certificate in hand, these new graduates are now moving on to the next stage in their lives.

“The Department of Human Services is dedicated to helping individuals with disabilities become successfully employed in communities across Tennessee and beyond,” said newly appointed Assistant Commissioner for Rehabilitation Services Andrea Cooper. “The services offered at TRC truly do assist individuals in achieving their highest level of functioning so they can live and work as independently as possible.”

Two of the new graduates are already out in the workforce, testing the skills that they learned at TRC. Lee Robertson recently completed the Food Service Vocational Training Program and is successfully employed as a cook in a restaurant in Columbia. He took the short drive from Maury County to Rutherford County to take part in Friday’s ceremony.

One of the missing faces at graduation was Chad Sanders, a Trenton native who completed his training in May. Chad was not able to attend the ceremony because he was on the job as a forklift operator at the Pictsweet vegetable packing company in Bell, Tennessee. Like many students at TRC, Chad received additional services while at the facility, including Vocational Evaluation Services and pre-vocational services from the JOBS program. Chad also completed a program of services in the Traumatic Brain Injury Program.

The Tennessee Rehabilitation Center is a state-operated comprehensive rehabilitation facility. It is one of only nine such centers in the nation. Services are provided on campus, and the majority of clients live on site while receiving services. The length of programs offered at TRC vary, depending upon the individual client’s interest, abilities and needs. TRC is part of the Division of Rehabilitation Services within the Tennessee Department of Human Services. TRC serves more than 1,000 Tennesseans with disabilities each year. Since opening its doors in 1977, TRC has served more than 25,000 individuals. For more information about the Division of Rehabilitation Services, please visit:

<http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/rehabilitation.htm>

The following page contains a list of TRC graduates by county.

CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR
400 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37248
615.313.4700

<u>FirstName</u>	<u>LastName</u>	<u>County</u>
Cory	Arms	Anderson
Deadrick	Booker	Anderson
Brandon	Wedgeworth	Carter
Koye	Cherry	Clay
Tim	Holman	Coffee
Curtis	Jordan	Coffee
Melissa	Blair	Cumberland
Wendell	Graves	Davidson
Antonio	Hereford	Davidson
Stacy	Herndon	Davidson
Michael	Mannion	Davidson
Raymond	McKinney	Davidson
Lataya	Pride	Davidson
Patrick	Ruth	Davidson
Shauna	Shrum	Davidson
Sophia	Taylor	Davidson
Chris	Wade	Davidson
Natalie	Wells	Davidson
Jonathan	Smith	Dickson
Dennis	Partin	Franklin
Claudette	Luten	Gibson
Michael	Summers	Gibson
Fantasia	Hackler	Greene
Anthony	Hay	Hamilton
Michelle	Snow	Hamilton
Brittany	Ware	Hamilton
Summer	Kendrick	Haywood
Travis	Parrish	Henderson
Shimere	Tharpe	Henry
Alan	Burris	Knox
Terry	Underwood	Knox
Tabitha	Gatlin	Lawrence

Melissa	Kimbrel	Lawrence
Ben	Brooks	Lincoln
Ryan	Robertson	Maury
Kyle	Dunaway	Montgomery
Colby	Faulk	Polk
John	Foley	Robertson
Joseph	Wilkerson	Robertson
Bradley	Brown	Rutherford
Sean	Garrett	Rutherford
Aaron	Hargrove	Rutherford
Daisy	Reed	Rutherford
Marvin	Robinson	Rutherford
LiaCharmaine	Walker	Rutherford
Kennen	Brooks	Shelby
Christopher	Edwards	Shelby
Kenneth	Lurry	Shelby
Michael	Messer	Shelby
Jeremy	Robertson	Shelby
Mark	Sullivan	Shelby
T'Shad	Wright	Shelby
William	Horton	Sullivan
Brandie	Sells	Sullivan
Joann	McCloud	Sumner
Scarlett	Scott	Sumner
Sarah	Wertz	Sumner
Kelly	Dollar	Wilson

*Not all graduates' names are listed. Only those who have approved that their names could be published.